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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK BEGICH, a Senator from the State of Alaska.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, in whom we live and move and have our being, make our Senators aware of Your presence as they look to You for guidance and strength. Lord, refresh them with Your Spirit by energizing their thoughts and reinforcing their judgment. Show them what is noble in our heritage, that they may conserve and strengthen it. Teach them what needs to be changed and give them the courage and wisdom to do it. In all their labors, empower them to yield themselves to Your will, that this legislative body may fulfill Your purposes for our Nation and world.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK BEGICH led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, March 31, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK BEGICH, a Sen-

ator from the State of Alaska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. BEGICH thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 13, the concurrent resolution on the budget. Under an agreement reached last night, 40 hours of the statutory time remains, with the time equally divided between the majority and the Republicans. Under the agreement, when the Senate resumes consideration of the budget resolution, Senator MURRAY will be recognized to speak for up to 15 minutes. Following her remarks, Senator GREGG or his designee will be recognized to offer an amendment. That amendment will be limited to 1 hour of debate equally divided. Then Senator BOXER will be recognized to offer an amendment in relation to the Thune amendment No. 731. Debate on that amendment will also be limited to 1 hour equally divided. Following debate on the Boxer amendment, Senator CONRAD or his designee will be recognized to offer a side-by-side amendment to the Johanns amendment No. 735.

I will say, Mr. President, we have on this side a number of Senators who want to speak on the budget. They want to talk about the merits of the budget. We will try to the best of our ability to work them in between amendments. We recognize anyone can grab the floor anytime they want. Senator CONRAD and Senator GREGG are

going to do their best to try to make this an orderly process, and we will cooperate in any way we can to have that be the case.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

### CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of S. Con. Res. 13, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 13) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2010, revising the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2011 through 2014.

Pending:

Thune amendment No. 731, to amend the deficit-neutral reserve fund for climate change legislation to require that such legislation does not increase electricity or gasoline prices.

Johanns amendment No. 735, to prohibit the use of reconciliation in the Senate for climate change legislation involving a cap-and-trade system.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, let me start this morning by commending Chairman KENT CONRAD for his leadership of our Budget Committee and especially for the hundreds of hours he and his staff have dedicated to getting this budget done and accommodating both the priorities and concerns of so many of us in this body. Putting together a budget is never an easy process, but I believe our chairman has achieved a good balance that will set

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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